

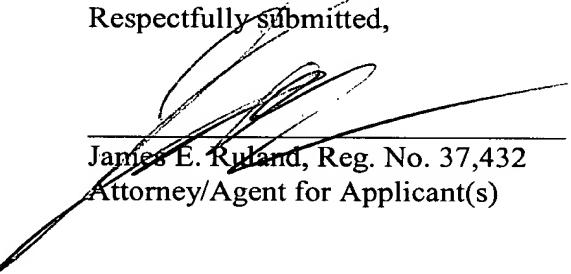
REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the prior art rejections from the last paper. With respect to the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that these claim rejections should be withdrawn. What is more, Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment does not narrow the scope of the claim because it merely makes explicit what is inherent.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached pages is captioned, "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**". If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A process for reducing a fluorescence quenching caused by a measuring medium, in a fluorescence assay for an analyte using at least one fluorescent label, comprising introducing a fluorescent conjugate comprising an oligonucleotide bonded to a rare-earth metal cryptate into the measuring medium, thereby reducing the fluorescence quenching caused by the measuring medium.